

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
Quarterly Performance Report to USAID
Period 31 of 40: December 20, 2005 - March 19, 2006

RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM
PCE-A-00-98-00008-00

I. CURRENT STATUS

Primary emphasis this quarter has been on review-cycle 26 full-proposal follow-throughs and processing of the AID review-cycle 27 preproposals. Provided preliminary updated guidelines for CDR pre- and full proposals and MERC pre- and full proposals. A particularly major effort was associated with preparation for the MERC preproposal review, which involved 96 preproposals, thus maintaining the high level of submissions. The major activities are described in the list below.

- Preliminary guidelines were prepared for the CDR pre- and full proposals and MERC pre- and full proposals.
- Prepared background information for preproposals and full proposals for the MERC Committee meetings, and for the CDR pre-proposals.
- Materials for MERC full proposal meeting mailed to Committee members.
- Attended MERC full proposal committee meeting on January 17th, recording results and discussions.
- MERC26 draft full proposal letters were prepared, and Approval letters were mailed.
- Preparations were made for the MERC27 and CDR27 preproposal reviews. These involved the processing of the preproposals, suggesting review assignments, informing the appropriate missions for their comments and assisting with preparations for the actual CDR preproposal review meetings and MERC committee meetings.
- Attended the CDR preproposal meetings at the end of February and the MERC preproposal committee meetings on March 13-15, gathering the necessary information for the necessary follow up actions.
- MERC27 preproposal draft conditions were written and draft letters were prepared. M27-038 fasttrack letter processed and mailed.
- Materials were sent to the US Embassy in Israel as required for current grant negotiations.
- Continued to work with MERC25 and CDR25 P.I.'s to aid in providing adequate Response to Provisos.

- A consultant contract was prepared for Mike Dow to provide support for the MERC Committee meeting.
- Final and semi-annual reports were received, reviewed and processed. The database was updated accordingly.
- Continued to communicate with researchers and answer appropriate questions regarding their submissions for FY2005 and FY2006.

II. DISCUSSION

Again, this quarter was extremely busy for the combined programs. This was due in large part to preparations for and attendance at the meetings to review the large number of MERC preproposals, the increasing effort required on Response to Provisos, and the other continuing activities as listed above.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The meetings of the MERC committee to review the MERC preproposals and full proposals took place during this quarter. The compilation of the results of these meetings and the necessary actions resulting from them will require a major effort during the next quarter. Summarization of grantee reports will continue, and normal housekeeping activities for this quarter of the annual review cycle will consume a considerable amount of time.